

ALASKA POTATO STOCKS

Alaska Division of Agriculture
Alaska Cooperative Extension
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National Agricultural Statistics Service
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As of December 1, 2004

All potatoes in storage in **ALASKA** as of December 1, 2004 totaled 137,000 cwt. This was 77 percent of the 2004 crop and compares with 110,000 cwt or 66 percent on hand during the same period last year. The 2002 level for the December 1 stocks was 116,000 cwt. The five-year average stocks on hand for December 1 is 135,200 cwt.

Disappearance since October 1 was 17,000 cwt, compared with 37,000 cwt last year and the five-year average of 23,100 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes from the start of the harvest to December 1 totaled 40,000 cwt; comparable disappearance for a year earlier was 58,000 cwt. The five year average is 38,000 cwt. The disappearance since October 1 reflects sales, shrinkage and waste, as well as losses caused by frost damage to potatoes. In 2004 there was a small loss of potatoes due to frost damage. In 2003 there was significant frost damage reflected in the disappearance.

Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including seed potatoes that are not yet moved, and shrinkage, waste, and other losses that occur after the date of each report.

Revisions have been made to the earlier published potato stocks and production estimates. The production for potatoes for 2004 is revised down to 177,000 cwt, Oct 1 stocks were revised down to 154,000 cwt. Revisions were made as more up to date data was available from producers.

The **15 MAJOR POTATO STATES** held 272 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2004, up 1 percent from last year and 3 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 67 percent of the 2004 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point above last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 12 percent round white, 4 percent long white (Shepody), and 81 percent russets, with fewer reds and more long whites than a year ago. Disappearance of 132 million cwt from the start of harvest to December 1, is down 3 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 16.8 million cwt, is up 12 percent from last year and 8 percent above the same date in 2002.

WESTERN STATES held 184 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, up 3 percent from last year but 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are up 9 percent from last year, California increased 19 percent, and Montana's storages held 10 percent more. Potato sheds in Washington and Colorado both stored 2 percent less than last year and Oregon sheds were down 6 percent.

ALASKA POTATO STOCKS - DECEMBER 1, 2004

Year	Stocks		Production	Dec 1 Stocks as a Percent of Production
	Dec. 1	Oct. 1		
	----- 1,000 Cwt -----			-- Percent --
2004 ^{1/}	137.0	154.0	177.0	77%
2003	110.0	147.0	168.0	66%
2002	116.0	135.0	154.0	75%

^{1/} Data revised from Oct 1 report.

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